From: Zach Anthony
To: Microsoft ATR,dennispowell@earthlink.net@inetgw
Date: 12/27/01 1:12am
Subject: A threat to our national defense.

Hello,

I work for a government contractor in the development of information systems. The project I am currently working on is an important intelligence application that has been in use by the Department of Defense since the 70's.

I am writing because I am particularly concerned about the negative impact that non-standard, closed software may have on our project and our national defense.

Development of new functionality of our application relies heavily upon open source software and open standards. Software currently being utilized in our system includes: Java, Apache HTTPD, Apache Tomcat, Apache SOAP, Ghostscript, and various GNU utilities; gzip, gcc, gdb, and the list goes on.

My point is this, open source and open standards provide the public and the government with quality software components that are being used **right now** to reduce costs and increase flexibility. Only by using standards based, open software can the government or any corporation ensure that they are free from control of a single entity.

The Internet evolved from the work of the U.S. government to create an indestructible infrastructure that no one could stop. Why on earth would we want to hand this over to Microsoft?

It has been said in several other articles and correspondence that Microsoft's control over the Internet is dangerous. Their ability to monopolize technologies through marketing and distribution of incompatible software is widely known.

To me, America is about freedom. We must encourage the freedom of the government, corporations, and all individuals by insuring the free exchange of information.

Microsoft seeks to "loan" their computer applications, and store information saved with those applications in a closed or encrypted format which only Microsoft applications can unlock.   What this amounts to is data hi-jacking... you can get to **your** data only if you are willing to pay the price Microsoft asks.

Please, protect your country; every citizen, every corporation, every government agency. Do not let Microsoft continue to release

non-standard, closed technology that benefits only themselves.

Sincerely,
-Zach Anthony